Many Princes, Proverbs 28.2

In our distress over the directions the current administration is taking, I thought it good to provide a bit of Solomon’s wisdom. The NKJV says, “Because of the transgression of a land, many *are* its princes; But by a man of understanding *and* knowledge right will be prolonged.”

Whenever there is a revolt in a land, princes appear like dandelions in the spring. They pop up everywhere. They all think that they are the solution to the country’s problems. In their own minds they believe they have the power to make the revolt successful, overthrow the current government, and replace it with something that is wonderfully beneficial to all. Martin Meredith, *The Fate of Africa, A History of Fifty Years of Independence* (PublicAffairs, 2005) tells the story of each country in Africa. The stories are remarkably similar and demonstrate the accurate observation by Solomon: revolts give birth to many leaders who lack the wisdom and resources of a king.

Solomon compares “in a revolt” and “in a man”; the land has many princes in a revolt, but in a single person who causes others to have understanding there is a transference of knowledge. “Understanding” and “knowledge” are both participles with no conjunction separating the words, and they are in different stems. The man causes understanding with the result that knowledge in others increases. People grow in knowledge of what is right, honest, correct, or proper thinking given the current circumstances. The result of this is that the person who listens to the wise man will be in a state of calm in the midst of upsetting circumstances.

We could all use a good dose of proper thinking that provides calm in the midst of our lives.

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*